

February 22, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

We are Johan and Kristen Eveland from Guilford. We are the parents of Alex Eveland who is 15 years old with a diagnosis of chromosome deletion 13q33.3. We are testifying on the impact of the Governor's budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We are disappointed that the Governor's budget does not include funding for graduate or transition students with special needs after they age out of the school system. Our son may only be 15 years old and a freshman in high school but not a day goes by that we do not think of his future. Our full intention is for him to be as independent as possible, have a fulfilling job and to be a part of a community that is encouraging and kind. We will be counting on the resources and support from the State to help with job coaches, transportation and day support. The Governor needs to promise not to give up on our families!

Please restore funding for day and employment services for new graduates!

Please restore funding for Family Support Grants!

Please restore funding for new families who need Behavioral Support Services!

Please support the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million in the ID Partnership which will help people on the DDS residential waiting list, support developing more residential options for people with I/DD and stabilize community based supports.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Kristen and Johan Eveland

620 Colonial Road

Guilford, CT 06437